

Dkt. #683

Proposed new claims for application 09/693,239

What is claimed is:

1. (New) An apparatus for gathering, picking up and carrying materials comprising
 - a) two rakes which each have shafts with an array of tines at one end, and
 - b) a flexible coupling means for connecting the shafts of the rakes, which can be moved along the shafts of the rakes.
2. (New) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the flexible coupling means consists of:
 - a) two loops that have inner diameters slightly larger than the diameters of the shafts of the rakes to be connected and
 - b) a flexible linkage means for connecting the two loops having a length of one fourth to 4 inches.
3. (New) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the coupling means is molded of, or cut from sheets of, an inherently flexible elastomeric plastic or rubber material.
4. (New) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the flexible linkage means of the coupling is made of rigid material fabricated in the form of a chain to impart flexibility.
5. (New) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the loops of the coupling means contain clamping devices that permit them to be moved along the shafts to a desired position and then to be clamped there to prevent movement of the coupling along the shaft.